[*English*] Gujarat

Agricultural & Rural Debt Relief Scheme

*377. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat to extend the benefit of Agricultural & Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme to those SCs/STs who had taken loans from nationalised banks;

(b) whether the Government propose to extend the period for repayment of loan granted to the State Government under the Scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) A request was received from the Government of Gujarat in September, 1990 that the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme may be extended to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes who have taken loans from State Government agencies like the Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes Development Corporations, Backward Classes Boards, etc. The ARDR Scheme was formulated by the Government of India for providing debt relief to farmers, artisans and weavers who have taken loans from Public Sector Banks and Regional Rural Banks only. The State Governments have formulated similar schemes for cooperative banks. Scheduled Caste, Scheduld Tribes borrowers who are farmers, weavers and artisans are eligible for debt relief under the scheme.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government do not propose to make any changes in the scheme.

Per Capita External Debt

*378. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA
DR. A. K. PATEL } : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the per capita external debt of the Union Government at the end of 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91 and as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : The per capita external debt on Government Account and IMF borrowings at the end of 1988-89, 1989-90 & 1990-91 is estimated to be Rs. 618, Rs. 683 and Rs. 835 respectively. Information as on date is not available as the accounts for the period are yet to close.

32 Government Employee

Involvement of Customs Officials in Smuggling

*379. SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI } : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the officers/staff of the Customs Houses and Central Excise Collectorates found responsible for aiding and abetting the smuggling activities during 1990 and January—July, 1991;

(b) the action taken against such employees/officers; and

(c) the details of the cases pending finalisation and steps taken to expedite the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Available reports indicate that 19 personnel of theC ustom Houses and Central Excise Collectorates, as per details in the table below, have been allegedly found to be involved in smuggling activities during the calendar years 1990 and 1991 (up to 31 st July, 1991).